

# FACTSHEET

## High Occupancy Vehicle Lane Stickers

California law allows qualifying single-occupant, clean, alternative-fuel vehicles to use High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) or carpool lanes in order to improve air quality and ease freeway congestion. In order for a vehicle with just one occupant to use an HOV lane, it must display a Clean Air Vehicle Sticker issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

***Yellow HOV stickers (expired):*** Yellow stickers granted HOV access to hybrid or alternatively-fueled vehicles that met the state's advanced technology partial zero emission (AT PZEV) standard for criteria pollutant emissions and had a 45 miles per gallon or greater fuel economy highway rating. DMV issued these stickers primarily for the Toyota Prius. State law capped eligibility for yellow stickers at 85,000 vehicles, a limit that DMV reached in 2007; all yellow stickers expired on July 1, 2011. With the expiration of these stickers, hybrid vehicles are no longer allowed to operate in a carpool lane unless the minimum passenger requirement is met, and an officer may cite a driver for not meeting the minimum passenger requirement.

***White HOV stickers:*** White HOV stickers allow single-occupant, super clean vehicles that meet the federal definition of an Inherently Low Emission Vehicle to drive in carpool lanes. These vehicles are typically pure battery electric vehicles, dedicated compressed natural gas or liquid petroleum gas vehicles, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, such as the Nissan Leaf, the Tesla Roadster, and the Honda Civic CNG. DMV had issued about 35,000 white stickers. State law places no limit on the number of white stickers DMV can issue. White stickers are valid until January 1, 2019.

***Green HOV stickers:*** Green stickers allow single-occupant vehicles that meet California's enhanced advanced technology partial zero-emission vehicles (Enhanced AT PZEV) or transitional zero-emission vehicles (TZEV) requirements to drive in carpool lanes. The Chevrolet Volt, Ford C-Max Energi, Ford Fusion Energi, Honda Accord Plug-In Hybrid, and Toyota Prius Plug-In are the only vehicles eligible for green stickers. State law limits the number of green stickers that DMV may issue to 40,000. This program began on January 1, 2012. As of August 31, 2013, DMV had issued about 18,000 green stickers. As with the white stickers, green stickers are valid until January 1, 2019.

A list of qualifying vehicles for these HOV stickers is available from the California Air Resources Board website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/carpool/carpool.htm#FAQ>.

October 2013